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northern Alaska, and is, so far as known, only represented well in the museum of St. Petersburg. In the Smithsonian collection, there are two skins, obtained by Dr. Dall from Cape Romanzoff, but no skull or other parts of the skeleton. The species is remarkable for color as well as for structural peculiarities. The male is at once recognizable by the color; this may be said to be a chocolate-brown except (1) a band of whitish-yellow, bent forwards towards the crown around the neck (2) an oval ring of the same color on each side, encircling the fore feet, and passing in front just before them, and (3) another band, also bent forwards above, behind the middle of the trunk. There is considerable variation in the extent of these bands, and sometimes the peribrachial rings are more or less confluent with the posterior band. The females are simply whitish-yellow, or have very indistinct traces of the postmedian band (fide Von Schrenck).

The structural (and especially dental) characters of this species, according to Von Schrenck, indicate a generic distinction from all the familiar forms of the subfamily *Phocinae*. The molars (except the first) are two-rooted as in the typical *Phocinae*, but in external form are simply conic or have rudimentary cusps, thus resembling *Halichærus*. The genus may be named *Histriophoca*.

The special object of this communication is to call the attention of travellers in Alaska to the species, and skeletons (especially skulls) and skins are earnestly asked for. The species has been found also in Kamtschatka, and at the mouth of the Kamtschatka river in March and April, arriving there later than the other seals named.

One of the skins in the Smithsonian collection has been peeled off from the animal almost entire, and by a cross slit below and between the fore feet, and, being tied in front, has evidently been used as a bag. — T. GILL.

GEOLOGY.

FOSSIL QUADRUNA IN THE EOCENE OF WYOMING. — An examination of more complete specimens of some of the extinct mammals already described by the writer from the Eocene deposits of the Rocky Mountain region, clearly indicate that among them are several representatives of the lower Quadruna. Although these remains differ widely from all known forms of that group, their more important characters show that they should be placed with

them. The genera *Limnotherium*, *Thinolestes*, and *Telmatolestes*, especially, have the principal parts of the skeleton much as in some of the Lemurs, the correspondence in many of the larger bones being very close. The anterior part of the lower jaws is similar to that of the Marmosets, but the angle is more produced downward, and much inflected. The teeth are more numerous than in any known Quadrumana. Some of the species have apparently forty teeth, arranged as follows: Incisors $\frac{2}{2}$? canines $\frac{1}{1}$, premolars and molars $\frac{7}{7}$. A full description of these interesting remains, the first of the order detected in this country, will be given by the writer at an early day. — O. C. MARSH, in the *American Journal of Science and Arts*, Vol. IV, Nov., 1872.

THE EOBASEILEUS AGAIN. — I have just received a paper "On the Gigantic Fossil Mammals of the Order Dinocerata, by Prof. O. C. Marsh," which contains a formidable catalogue of errors which the author appears to suppose I have committed in describing animals of this type. All this is explained by the fact that Prof. Marsh has never seen the genus *Eobasileus* Cope, and erroneously supposes it to resemble *Uintatherium* Leidy (*Dinoceras* Marsh.) The descriptions which I have given are correct, as will presently appear, as well as the fact that I have anticipated the Professor in the description of some of the allied species. — E. D. COPE, *January 31st*, 1873.

ANTHROPOLOGY.

ARE THEY TWISTING STONES?—Associated with the various forms of stone implements and weapons found upon the surface of the fields in New Jersey are certain flat, quadrangular plates of stone of varying density, having one, two or more holes drilled through them. The outlines of these stone plates vary considerably, as may be seen by the reference to the drawings of seventeen specimens given by Squier and Davis, in "Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley," p. 237, Fig. 136; and the position of the holes will also be seen to vary to a considerable extent. Of the two-holed specimens found by the writer, in the neighborhood of Trenton, N. J., the majority are about six inches in length by one and one-half inches in breadth; and the perforations are in most instances about an inch from either end. Such specimens as these are by many archæologists considered "twisting stones,"